



27 June 2016

NEWSFLASH

Temporary Operational Change at Vumbura Plains due to Fire Damage

On the weekend of 3 June 2016, a portion of the main area of Vumbura Plains South camp (the bar and lounge) burnt down to the ground. No-one was injured and as yet, we do not know the cause. The resulting damage requires a rebuild of the main area and work has commenced in this regard. However, due to the position of certain rooms located close to the burnt section, we have effectively lost access to three rooms. These have been closed in inventory up to and including 31 August 2016, and alternative arrangements made for those affected. The remaining three rooms at Vumbura Plains South will continue to be used, and guests staying in these rooms will be hosted at the Vumbura Plains North main area for the duration of the rebuild. Note that this main area is sized to accommodate the extra beds so space will not be a problem. Vehicles will be available at all times to move guests to the furthest rooms if and when required. We do not believe that the guest experience will be compromised as we have operated in this manner before whenever the need has arisen, and hope to be fully operational again by the beginning of September.

2016 Packages at a Glance

To assist you in promoting the various specials and packages we have on offer for 2016, we have put together a two page summary as an easy reference tool. Including a brief description of each programme, with rates as relevant, the new **2016 Packages at a Glance** flyer has been added to the Info Centre on the Wilderness Window, where you will also find the detailed flyer for the individual itineraries. Remember that in the case of the Namibian packages, the rates are found in the published Namibian Nett Rates Sheets.

IMPORTANT

UPDATE | Yellow Fever Requirements

- **Botswana** has confirmed that Zambia and Tanzania are no longer among yellow fever declared countries and therefore the vaccination is not required on entering Botswana, when arriving from/passing through one of these two countries.
- **Uganda & Rwanda** have advised that a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is now mandatory for all visitors.
- **Kenya & Tanzania** have advised that visitors arriving from listed countries (contact your Journey Specialist for details) must present a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate on arrival, however, this is not a requirement for transit passengers (less than 12 hours in Kenya and Tanzania).

Water Activities in Botswana

All activities are back to normal at our camps in the Okavango Delta. However, the barge at Kings Pool is still not on offer as water levels are very low. We do not anticipate making use of the barge in the next 2 to 3 months unless there is an extraordinary push of floodwater in the near future.

INFO CENTRE

The General Information Manual (GIM)

Found in the Info Centre on the Wilderness Window, this is your best single source for a range of information – from bank account details and game drive vehicle configurations to the use of drones and child or tour-leader policies plus information on excess luggage. The comprehensive camp summary grid is useful for information on camp and room facilities, number of beds, activities on offer, etc.

WILDERNESS TOURING

CAPE FEATURED EXCURSION | Photographic Workshops

The Cape is a photographer's paradise that presents a perfect opportunity for the keen photographer to refine his/her skills before a safari. Under the expert guidance of a local professional photographer, these private full day workshops include a gourmet picnic. Choose your setting from incredible scenic and wildlife close-ups to architecture, cultural portraiture or a combination of them all. The professional photographer will assist in teaching practical digital photography techniques – with a special focus on how get the best out of the African landscape with your camera. This tour is also available as an introductory morning or a half day tour.

BOTSWANA

Ballooning Excursion ex Vumbura

Feedback received from guests who have enjoyed this excursion has been very positive – including the recommendation to use the helicopter for transfers in both directions. Depending on wind direction and landing areas, some of the road transfers have been quite long. The images below show the helicopter arriving at the site, the flight and the helicopter returning to camp...

- "One guest even said it is the best ballooning she has done, and her previous adventures were in the Mara..."
- "The balloon ride was a stand out. Getting a short helicopter ride and then up in the balloon over the delta at sunrise - wow. It was outstanding."



ZIMBABWE

Air Conditioners at Linkwasha

Used for both heating and cooling, freestanding air-con units have been installed in the rooms at Linkwasha in Hwange – standing in the corner per the image below.



US Dollar Shortage

There is a shortage of US Dollar cash in Zimbabwe, with limitations on the amount that may be drawn from ATMs. Our recommendation is to bring small denomination US\$ Dollar bills for payment, as change for larger amounts may not be available. Credit cards are accepted at some of the larger establishments, however, some smaller shops and

restaurants as well as the craft markets do not have card facilities. Note that Euros, Pounds, Pula and ZAR are accepted in cash, however, exchange rates may not be favourable.

The New Victoria Falls Airport

These images will give you an idea of how much larger and more spacious the new airport is!



AIRLINES

Air Namibia Suspend Flights to Maun

Air Namibia will indefinitely suspend flights from Windhoek to Maun (Botswana) on 30 October 2016 as part of its 'flight schedule rationalisation'. Flights on the Windhoek-Victoria Falls route will continue to operate as normal.

Direct Frankfurt-Cape Town Flights Planned

Complementing the airlines' year-round daily flights to Johannesburg, Lufthansa will launch direct flights between Frankfurt and Cape Town on 2 December 2016. Flights will depart Cape Town on Thursdays, Saturdays and Mondays.

New Route between Cape Town, Victoria Falls & Nairobi

Kenya Airways has introduced a new route – from Nairobi to Cape Town via Livingstone. The airline has fifth freedom rights on the route, meaning passengers can embark and disembark at each stop.

A Direct US-Cape Town Flight?

Cape Town Air Access has prioritised a non-stop flight between the United States and Cape Town International. Although further details are not yet known, discussions are underway.

RwandAir coming to Durban?

RwandAir is the latest airline to announce plans to launch flights to Durban in the near future. The airline plans to offer connections via Kigali to Mumbai. This is still in negotiations and there is no definite date yet.

Warm regards,
Tina

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